



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 5

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Field conditions remained too wet during most of the week. Fieldwork was mostly limited to those fields of lighter type and well drained soils. By mid-week, some farmers were back in their fields, but the best progress was made during the weekend. Corn planting is two weeks behind last year's record pace, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. There were only about 6 days suitable during the month of April for field activities. Temperatures remained cool during most of the week. Weeds are becoming a problem in some fields. Ponds remain in many low lying areas of fields around the state.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 1.1 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Ten percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 83 percent last year and 49 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 14 percent of the corn acreage is planted in the north, 9 percent in the central regions and 3 percent in the south. One percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 27 percent a year earlier. Two percent of the intended **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 46 percent a year ago and 21 percent for the average.

Other activities during the week were preparing equipment, applying fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia, tilling soils, moving grain to market, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

Ninety-three percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed** compared with 97 percent last year and 93 percent for the 5-year average. Thirteen percent of the winter wheat is **headed** compared with 25 percent last year and 16 percent for the average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 66 percent good to excellent, above the 62 percent last week, but below the 71 percent a year ago at this time. Wet soils are putting some stress on winter wheat.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 18 percent excellent, 60 percent good, 21 percent fair and 1 percent poor. Pastures and forage crops continue to improve. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Spring calving continues.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	10	4	83	49
Corn Emerged	1	0	27	NA
Soybeans Planted	2	0	46	21
Winter Wheat Jointed	93	77	97	93
Winter Wheat Headed	13	1	25	16

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Pasture	0	1	21	60	18
Winter Wheat 2002	0	6	28	52	14
Winter Wheat 2001	1	6	22	62	9

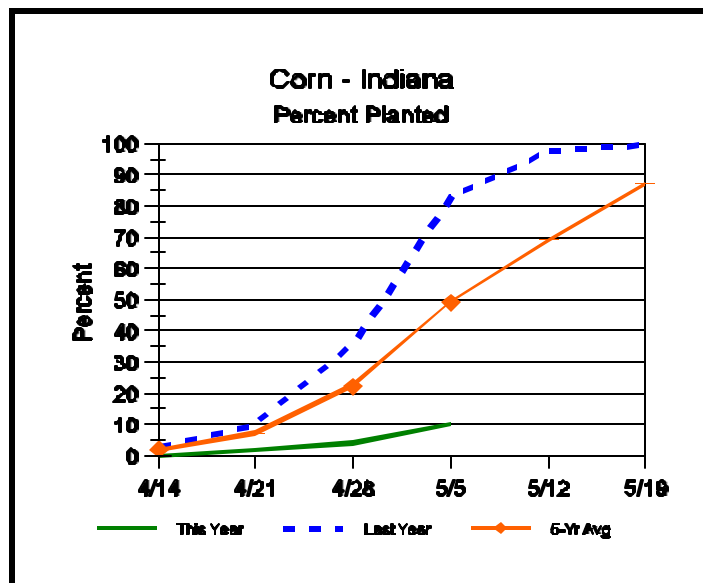
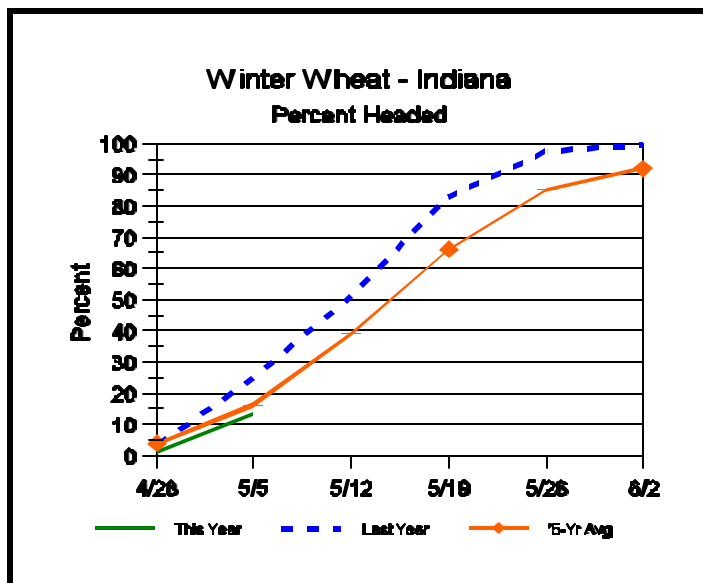
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	19
Short	0	0	41
Adequate	32	37	40
Surplus	68	63	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	11
Short	1	1	34
Adequate	47	52	54
Surplus	52	47	1
Days Suitable	1.1	1.4	7.0

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Rainy Days, Soggy Soils, & Idle Planters

While only about 20% of Indiana's corn crop is typically planted by 30 April (1983-2001 crop reporting data, Indiana Ag. Stats. Service), farmers have been spoiled the last couple of years with excellent weather and soil conditions in late March and early April. Consequently, many farmers throughout the state were already well into planting by this time last year. Not so in 2002. Rain and snow during the past four weeks have delayed the start of corn and soybean planting throughout Indiana.

None of this is news to the regulars down at the Chat 'n Chew Café, but the frustration level is beginning to build among those who are faced with a significant acreage of corn yet unplanted, let alone that of soybean. While there is plenty of time to begin corn planting within the prime planting window of late April and early May, the risk is mounting that the finish of corn planting may occur in mid-May or later when yield losses to delayed planting increase significantly due to the shortened available growing season and accompanying stress factors. What can growers do to minimize that risk?

By the time the end of April rolls around, growers should concentrate primarily on planting corn and less so on performing related field activities such as tillage and pre-plant fertilizer or herbicide applications. This advice is particularly applicable if the time spent accomplishing these other field activities would otherwise limit the completion of the planting operation in a timely fashion. In particular,

- If you were aiming for pre-plant nitrogen applications, consider switching to a sidedress nitrogen application strategy using either 28% UAN liquid

nitrogen or anhydrous ammonia fertilizer sources. An additional benefit to sidedress fertilizer strategies is that applying nitrogen fertilizer after corn emergence reduces the time frame for nitrogen loss caused by leaching or denitrification, resulting in more available nitrogen to the growing crop. The primary risk associated with a sidedress fertilizer strategy is that rainy June weather may prevent timely nitrogen applications before the crop becomes too tall for ground driven application equipment.

- If you practice conventional tillage, reduce the number of pre-plant tillage trips. Today's planters do not require tabletop smooth seedbeds. If shallow tillage was performed last fall, consider planting into the stale seedbed without any additional tillage this spring. If no tillage was done after last season's soybean harvest, consider no-till planting the corn into the soybean stubble. See Tony Vyn's related article on tillage in a wet spring (P&C Newsletter, 26 Apr).
- If you were aiming for pre-plant incorporated herbicide applications, consider switching to pre-emerge or post-emerge application strategies. The arsenal of corn herbicides suitable for pre-emerge or post-emerge applications is much larger than years ago. The primary risk associated with pre-emerge or post-emerge strategies is that rainy weather after planting may prevent timely herbicide applications before the weeds become too large for effective

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday May 5, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2002 thru May 5, 2002				
								Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_AP_I	68	35	50	-6	0.21	1	55	5.45	+0.84	15	191	+75
Wanatah	69	33	51	-4	0.33	2		5.62	+1.21	15	159	+67
Wheatfield	71	33	50	-5	0.22	2		4.38	+0.03	14	179	+79
Winamac	69	35	50	-6	0.86	1		4.89	+0.63	16	165	+40
North Central(2)												
Chalmers_5W	71	36	51	-7	0.39	2	50	4.49	+0.21	17	169	+11
Plymouth	68	33	49	-9	0.21	2		5.12	+0.62	17	162	+27
South_Bend	67	35	49	-6	0.08	2		3.49	-0.87	17	179	+74
Young_America	70	37	52	-5	0.37	2		5.03	+0.96	13	193	+72
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	68	33	49	-5	1.07	2	50	5.69	+1.50	15	164	+74
Fort_Wayne	69	37	51	-5	0.63	1		4.36	+0.43	13	210	+98
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	69	32	52	-7	0.43	1	56	6.33	+1.88	12	197	+19
Perrysville	70	36	52	-5	0.22	1		5.48	+0.96	14	204	+56
Terre_Haute_AFB	72	35	55	-4	0.55	2		5.78	+1.17	14	279	+100
W_Lafayette_6NW	69	36	51	-5	0.30	1		5.68	+1.32	15	197	+71
Central (5)												
Brookville	73	35	54	-3	0.29	1	55	7.24	+2.67	13	246	+114
Eagle_Creek_AP	70	37	54	-5	0.37	2		6.06	+1.71	14	244	+76
Greenfield	67	36	53	-5	0.28	2		6.56	+1.83	17	221	+80
Indianapolis_AP	71	35	55	-4	0.29	1		5.94	+1.59	12	274	+106
Indianapolis_SE	69	35	53	-5	0.27	1		6.14	+1.68	11	225	+70
Tipton_Ag	67	36	50	-5	0.21	2		5.07	+0.53	16	180	+76
East Central (6)												
Farmland	69	37	51	-4	0.55	2	52	5.87	+1.70	18	189	+91
New_Castle	65	36	50	-6	0.62	1		6.33	+1.55	12	164	+61
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	77	43	60	-2	0.46	2	56	9.04	+4.27	14	389	+123
Freelandville	75	42	57	-2	0.41	1		5.64	+0.99	12	283	+85
Shoals	75	36	56	-4	0.22	1		5.56	+0.65	12	265	+71
Stendal	77	42	58	-2	1.63	2		8.75	+3.49	13	334	+107
Vincennes_5NE	78	37	57	-3	0.49	1		6.14	+1.49	10	306	+108
South Central(8)												
Spencer_Ag	73	33	54	-4	0.30	3	56	7.45	+2.69	16	215	+61
Tell_City	81	43	60	+0	0.75	1		8.45	+2.84	11	404	+165
Southeast (9)												
Milan_5NE	71	34	53	-4	0.38	3	56	8.76	+4.19	17	206	+74
Scottsburg	74	36	55	-5	1.84	2		7.59	+2.70	15	276	+77

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Rainy Days, Soggy Soils, & Idle Planters (Continued)

- control or the crop develops beyond the herbicide label restrictions for crop growth stage.
- Minimize herbicide application down time and headaches by taking advantage of the current soggy soil down time to scout your fields and identify the major weeds (primarily winter annuals) that are already growing. If you will be applying burndown herbicides, make sure you have the products readily available that will most effectively control the weeds identified by your field scouting activity. Calibrate and perform last minute preventive maintenance on your spray equipment. Make sure you have enough and the right chemical products to accomplish the job to avoid those unexpected trips to the dealer during planting.
- Minimize the risk of planter equipment down time by using these days of rain and soggy soils to go over the planter and tractor one last time to ensure that everything is working properly. This includes any last minute calibrations of starter fertilizer and insecticide applicators. Also make sure you understand all the ins and outs of any electronic controls associated with the planter (seed monitors, variable seed drives, fertilizer controls, GPS receivers, etc.) to minimize valuable time spent during planting trying to figure out why some @#\$!%! electronic component is not working properly.
- If you use some type of air planter AND your seed corn this year ranges from very small to large or very large kernel hybrids, make sure you are prepared for any necessary seed disc/drum switches and/or adjustments in air/vacuum pressure when you switch from one seed lot to another. Write the necessary information down in your pocket notepad or palm computer now so that you won't waste time thumbing through the operator's manual during planting or, worse yet, ignore the planter adjustments altogether.

Finally, if you are already wondering whether to switch to earlier maturity hybrids because of the late start of the planting season, the short answer is "Don't worry yet." A decision to switch hybrid maturities is not necessary for most Indiana corn growers until planting is delayed to late May or later. To view some related online references, see the listing at: http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/ext/targets/p&c/P&C2002/P&C6_2002.pdf (pg. 6).

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